

MLPA DRAFT MASTER PLAN

Annotated Outline

The following outline is intended to provide a guide to the contents of the Draft Master Plan that will be presented to the Fish and Game Commission in December, 2004. In particular, this guide shows the expected input and authorship for each section. For each section a brief summary of the content is provided and the primary author(s) of the section are shown in parentheses. It should be noted that the Regional Working Groups and Master Plan Team will review the entire document and offer comments to the Department

Abbreviations used:

DFG - Department of Fish and Game

MLPA - Marine Life Protection Act

MPA - Marine Protected Area

MPT - Master Plan Team

RWG -Regional Working Groups

Executive Summary

This section summarizes the content of the entire document in plain language.
(DFG)

Introduction

This section briefly reviews the enactment of AB 993 as the MLPA, the purpose of the MLPA, the basic requirements of the Master Plan, and states that DFG is the lead agency in developing the plan.
(DFG)

Master Plan Team

This section describes the composition of the Master Plan Team as required by the MLPA and lists the names and organizations of the MPT members, with a brief history of changes in membership.
(DFG)

Definitions

This section defines four relevant terms, extracted from the Fish and Game Code: Adaptive Management, Biogeographical Regions, Marine Protected Area, and Marine Life Reserve, with an explanation of how the Draft Master Plan uses the term "State Marine Reserve" as an equivalent of the latter.
(DFG)

Timetable

This section lists the major milestones of the MLPA process, and includes revisions of those milestones due to legislative amendments. It includes deadlines for submission of the initial and final drafts of the Master Plan to the Fish and Game Commission.
(DFG)

Goals

This section lists verbatim the six goals of the MLPA, as stated in the Fish and Game Code.
(DFG)

Biogeographical Regions

This section describes the major marine biogeographical regions in California, the use of the term "Marine Regions" by the MPT, the rationale for using the term "Marine Region", and the rationale for changing the number of regions used in the Draft Master Plan from three (as originally specified in the MLPA) to four.
(DFG and MPT)

Guidelines Used in the Development of the Master Plan

This section will have three subsections:

Habitat Types

This section explains the requirement of incorporating a wide variety of habitat into MPA alternatives, lists specific habitat types referenced in the MLPA, and describes how the MPT defined and organized these habitat types
(DFG and MPT)

Design of MPA Networks and Simplified Classification System

This section explains the requirements in the MLPA relating to the Preferred Alternative network of MPAs and their design criteria. It then describes the new classification system adopted under the Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act and lists the six new classifications with their definitions. It further states that three of these classifications are relevant to the MLPA.
(DFG and MPT)

Species Likely to Benefit from Marine Protected Areas

This section describes how the Draft Master Plan must include a list of these species and the criteria used for inclusion on this list. The section will refer to two appendices developed by the MPT and DFG for 1) Fishes and 2) Invertebrates and Plants. Each appendix will have brief descriptions of the distribution and relevant life history aspects of each species.
(DFG and MPT)

Approach Used to Develop Recommendations for Marine Protected Area Networks

This section will have subsections based on portions of the planning process timeline. This section will describe in general the rationale and process used by the MPT and RWGs and will be discussed with reference to major changes in the process relevant to the time scale.

May 2000 to March 2001

This section will describe the formation of the Master Plan Team, the limitations on involving a broad range of constituents, the monthly internal meetings, the initial evaluation of the existing MPAs, including the use and availability of data and GIS tools.

(DFG)

April to July 2001

This section will describe the mass mailing to obtain input on existing MPAs and possible additional MPAs or changes to existing ones, development of a DFG web site for the MLPA, use of a public relations officer, the development of the Initial Draft Concepts (IDCs) for a network of MPAs in each of the four marine regions, and a summary of the ten public workshops held in July. The text describing the IDCs will have a section listing the criteria used by the planning team on recommending individual MPAs. The criteria are organized into three categories: 1) habitat; 2) size and spacing; and 3) practicality

(DFG and MPT)

August to December 2001

This section will summarize the receipt of numerous public comments concerning the July workshops and the convening of approximately 60 small group meetings throughout the state with constituents to further discuss the IDCs.

(DFG)

January to December 2002

This section will describe the change in direction for the MLPA process, including the formation of seven Regional Working Groups with constituent representatives, the use of professional facilitators, and the first two sets of RWG meetings. It will describe the development of several documents, including the MLPA Clarification Guidelines, the Working Group Process and Operating Principles, and the Evaluation of Existing MPAs with GIS Maps. These will be attached as Appendices.

(DFG, RESOLVE, MPT, and RWGs)

January to December 2003

This section will summarize the RWG meetings during this period, with particular reference to the development of alternative networks of MPAs, and any social and/or economic analyses completed.

(DFG and RWGs)

Draft Recommendations for Networks of MPAs

This section will contain the Department's synthesis of the alternatives developed through the MLPA process, with the stated Preferred Alternative, and a discussion of the socioeconomic impacts (positive and negative) of each option. This section will also include other alternatives developed by the Working Groups but not listed under the range of alternatives, as well as recommendations from the Master Plan Team on additions or alterations to the above alternatives.

The options will include a "status quo" option in which no new MPAs are created and no modifications occur to the existing ones. This will essentially be a "re-naming" exercise under the new classification system.
(DFG, MPT, and RWGs)

Draft Recommendations for Enforcement Measures for the Preferred Alternative and Options

This section will include information on suggested enforcement measures to help ensure the proposed MPAs function as expected.
(DFG and RWGs)

Draft Recommendations for Public Outreach Efforts for the Preferred Alternative and Options

This section will include information on suggested outreach and education efforts and information that can be used to help implement MPAs. It will also include information about standardized signage and outreach materials.
(DFG and RWGs)

Draft Recommendations for Monitoring, Research, and Evaluation for the Preferred Alternative and Options

This section will include information on suggested monitoring, research, and evaluation protocols for MPAs. It will include suggestions for specific ongoing and new efforts that can be used to evaluate the success of the MPA program.
(DFG, MPT, and RWGs)

Draft Recommendations for Implementation and Phasing for the Preferred Alternative and Options

This section will include information on recommendations for phasing various portions of the MPA program over time. It will also include recommendations for how and when to implement various portions of the program.
(DFG, MPT, and RWGs)